

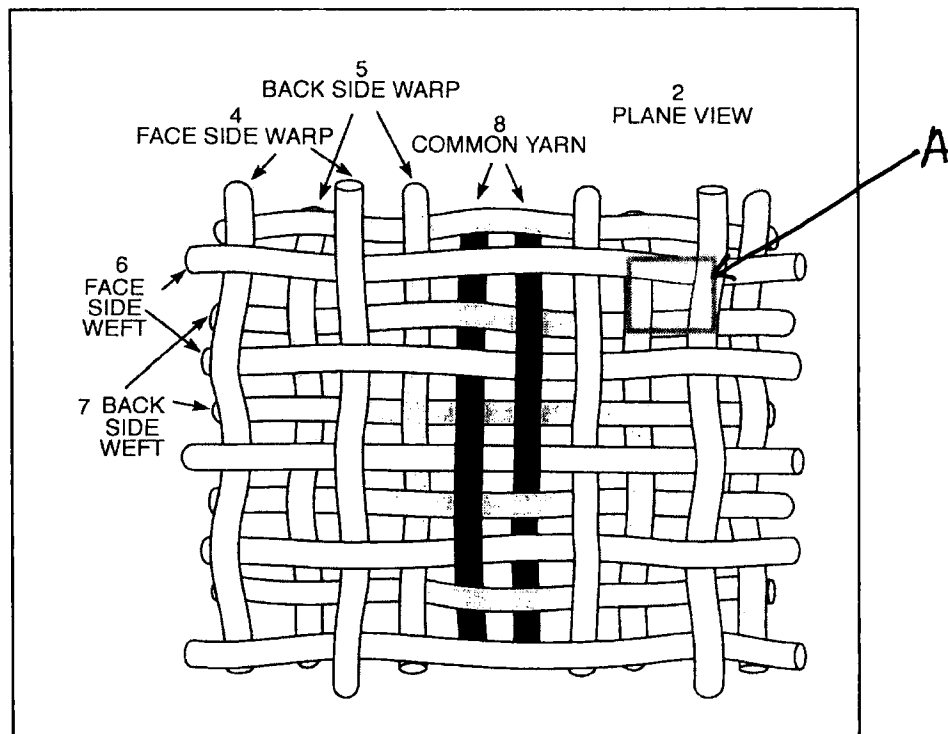
REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claim 1 has been amended to avoid the rejection of the claim under §112, second paragraph for being indefinite. It is believed the indefiniteness results from the use of the terms “smaller” and “layers” and the warps and wefts enclosing a gap. Thus claim 1 has now been amended to define that the face side structure and the back side structure “form two layers,” that the gap enclosed by warps and wefts is “a rectangle” and that “neither a warp nor a weft is observed within said gap when said gap is observed from a surface of the double glass cloth.”

Support for these amendments can be found in FIG. 1 (plane, side and front views). Assuming the gap is a rectangle, as shown, what constitutes “smaller” is, therefore, not indefinite, even without the recitation of the term “longer,” because a rectangle by definition has two smaller sides and two longer sides.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom now comply with the requirements of §112, second paragraph. Its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims is therefore requested.

To more clearly define the gap in which neither a warp nor a weft is observed when viewed from a surface of the double glass cloth, a new dependent claim 10 is added. This is also supported by FIG. 1 (plane view). As shown, the adjacent warp and weft of the face side structure and the adjacent warp and weft of the back side structure form a gap assumed to be a rectangle, in which neither a warp nor a weft is observed when the gap is observed from the surface of the double glass cloth. The gap is represented for example by the portion A in FIG. 1 (plane view) reproduced below.



Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the double structure comprising the face side structure and the back side structure “has been subjected to a fiber-opening processing by a water flow pressure or by vibration at high frequency using a liquid as a medium.” This is supported on page 18, lines 12-22 and page 19, line 3 to page 20, line 14 of the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over De La Porte in view of a newly cited reference to Scari (U.S. Patent No. 6,325,110). The same claims were also rejected for being obvious over De La Porte in view of Scari and a newly cited reference to Sanjana (U.S. Patent No. 4,590,539). The withdrawal of the rejection based on De La Porte alone or Nishimura is appreciated. However, it is believed the amended claims are not obvious over the new combinations of references for the following reasons.

De La Porte was discussed in the Reply filed September 2, 2008 and the remarks pertinent thereto are incorporated herein by reference. A noted difference in the claims over De La Porte was that the total thickness of the two layers of the claimed double glass cloth is between 10 μm and 400 μm and the average length of the smaller side a gap, assumed to be a rectangle, is between 0 and 50 μm . This improved the workability and the quality of the thin double glass cloth.

The "fiber-opening processing" now included in claim 1 makes it possible to reduce in-plane gaps of the double glass cloth and improve the impregnation characteristics of a resin varnish, increase the uniformity between the glass and a matrix resin, and improve thermal resistance or the like (see page 18, lines 16-22 of the specification).

Scari may show woven glass cloth having a thickness sufficient to form the claimed thickness of the woven double glass cloth, but the reference does not teach that any fiber-opening processing can be performed on the glass cloth or the advantages resulting from such a processing as discussed above.

Sanjana may teach that a tight weave is desirable in a plain woven fabric to reduce the resin content of a laminate made by embedding a polymer matrix in the fabric, but the reference, like Scari, does not teach that any fiber-opening processing can be performed on the fabric or the advantages resulting from such a processing as discussed above.

As required by MPEP § 2143.03, "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." Moreover, as noted in MPEP § 2143.02, to support a conclusion that a claim would have been obvious, "all the claimed elements" must have been known in the prior art. Since the claimed

fiber-opening processing is not shown in any of the cited references, it is submitted that the double glass cloth of claim 1 or claims 2-4 and 10 dependent therefrom cannot be considered to be obvious over either cited combination of references. Their withdrawal as a ground of rejection under §103(a) is therefore requested.

It is believed claims 1-4 and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

An RCE is being filed with this Reply to enable the Examiner to consider the amended claims at this time.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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